

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 06518 091613Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /063 W
-----031743 100202Z /65

R 091545Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3610
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 6518

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PN
SUBJECT: LIBERALS DISCUSS TREATY

REF: PANAMA 5953, PANAMA 6313

1. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1968, THE LIBERAL PARTY MET IN AN ALMOST DAY-LONG MEETING ON SEPT. 3 TO DISCUSS THE CANAL TREATY. SOME 100-200 MEMBERS OF THE PARTY'S NATIONAL BOARD, INCLUDING EX-PRESIDENT MARCOS ROBLES, ATTENDED. COMMITTEES, FORMED TO ANALYZE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE TREATY, ARE TO REPORT THEIR CONCLUSIONS IN ABOUT TEN DAYS.

2. THE BOARD ALSO CALLED FOR THE RETURN OF POLITICAL EXILES AND THE CREATION OF A LIBERAL FRONT TO PROMOTE THE REHABILITATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION.

3. IN THE COURSE OF THE MEETING JAIME JACOME RESIGNED AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PARTY, PROTESTING IN PRINCIPLE THAT THE LIBERAL PARTY CANNOT TAKE ACTION ON THE CANAL TREATY AS LONG AS IT DOES NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXIST LEGALLY AS A PARTY, REPORTEDLY, THERE WAS SOME HEATED DISCUSSION ABOUT JUST WHAT ROLE THE PARTY SHOULD PLAY IN THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PANAMA 06518 091613Z

TREATY DEBATE IN GENERAL. JACOME'S POSITION WAS INTERPRETED BY SOME AS A CHALLENGE TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE LIBERAL PARTY'S PRESIDENT DAVID SAMUDIO. RUMORS OF A CHALLENGE TO SAMUDIO HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING FOR SOME TIME, BUT THE MATTER SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN PUSHED TO THE BACKGROUND BY THE MORE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM OF DEALING WITH THE TREATY.

4. THE FACT THAT THE LIBERAL PARTY, THEORETICALLY ILLEGAL, WAS ALLOWED FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND OF EXPRESSION AND RECEIVED FRONT-PAGE PRESS COVERAGE OF ITS MEETING IN THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED ERSA PRESS AS WELL AS THE ESTRELLA PAPERS IS A SIGN OF THE LOOSENING OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER OPPOSITION GROUPS, PERHAPS ONLY FOR DEBATE ON THE TREATY -- THOUGH IT WILL BE TOUGH TO PUT THIS PARTICULAR GENIE BACK IN THE BOTTLE. WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE LIBERAL PARTY, AS WELL AS OTHER OPPOSITION GROUPS, WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS RELATIVE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION TO VOICE THEIR VIEWS ON OTHER ISSUES IN ADDITION TO THE TREATY.

5. THE PANAMANIAN PARTY (PP) OF EX-PRESIDENT ARNULFO ARIAS IS TO MEET THIS COMING WEEKEND FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE TREATY. THERE ARE REPORTS COMING FROM BOTH THE PP AND THE LIBERALS THAT THE TWO PARTIES -- PANAMA'S MOST IMPORTANT -- MIGHT TRY TO JOIN FORCES IN OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE IF THEY CAN COME UP WITH A JOINT POSITION ON THE TREATY. GONZALEZ

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, POLITICAL PARTIES, CANALS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PANAMA06518
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770328-0097
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770981/aaaacqee.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f5469849-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PANAMA 5953, 77 PANAMA 6313
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1332348
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LIBERALS DISCUSS TREATY
TAGS: PINT, PN, PQ, US, LIBERAL PARTY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f5469849-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009